

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS JULY 24, 1975

IS REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

1. MADRAS HINDU MORNING JULY 24 FRONT-PAGES ARTICLE
BY G.K. REDDY: "FOREIGN POLICY NOW FREE FROM POLITICAL
PRESSURES." THANKS TO EMERGENCY, INDIA "IS NOW ABLE
TO DISPLAY MUCH GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DEVELOPING MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS, WITHOUT
ALLOWING FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO BE TREATED AS A PLAYTHING OF
INTERNAL PARTY POLITICS AS IN THE PAST.

"A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY TASK NOW BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT

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IS STABILIZATION OF THE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE PROPOSED

MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING OF THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS ONLY A STARTING POINT FOR BETTER RELATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL CO-OPERATION.

"THOUGH THE STAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED FOR DISCUSSING ANY FIRM DATES, THE PROJECTED VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD TO INDIA IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE THOUGHTS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR, MR. T.N. KAUL, AND THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, HAS GONE OFF QUITE WELL, ACCORDING TO INDICATIONS HERE. FROM THE U.S. SIDE TOO THERE ARE RENEWED SIGNS OF A KEEN DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA BY STEERING CLEAR OF ANY INVOLVEMENT IN ITS INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS.

"IN SEEKING BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., INDIA ON ITS PART CONTINUES TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO TRADE RATHER THAN AID AS A SOUND BASIS FOR INCREASED COOPERATION. BUT THERE ARE STILL SPHERES WHERE A MORE ADVANTAGEOUSLY PLACED COUNTRY LIKE THE U.S. CAN HELP INDIA TO TIDE OVER SOME OF ITS DIFFICULTIES IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC STRAINS. THOUGH THE SOVIET UNION IS RE-ENTERING THE AMERICAN FOODGRAIN MARKET IN A BIG WAY, THE U.S. WILL BE STILL LEFT WITH A SUBSTANTIAL SURPLUS ON ITS HANDS WHICH COULD BE SOLD TO COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA ON DEFERRED PAYMENT. THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. OFFERING INDIA A GOOD BIT OF THE SURPLUS IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNDER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TERMS."

2. WITH CHAVAN PLANNING TRIPS TO LATIN AMERICA AND TO UNITED NATIONS, "THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION MEETING MAY BE HELD IN WASHINGTON EITHER IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER DEPENDING ON DR. KISSINGER'S OTHER COMMITMENTS."

3. MEANWHILE, INDIA AND USSR "CONTINUE TO MOVE CLOSER BOTH IN THE BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPHERES IN PURSUIT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS." "THE INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, WHICH HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME, REMAINS THE BEDROCK OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS
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WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL DISPENSATIONS."

4. WHILE INDIA IS "NOT HAPPY WITH THE OVER-REACTION (TO EMERGENCY) OF SOME SECTIONS OF OPINION IN THE WEST...IF THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT GOING TO BE SWAYED BY DOMESTIC PRESSURES, IT WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM ITS BASIC POLICY BY FOREIGN CRITICISM." SIGNED EAVES

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